

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 14-21 are pending in the application. Claims 9-11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. No new matter is presented.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after final rejection permits entering of amendments canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action or presenting the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment cancels Claims 9-11, placing the present application in condition for allowance. This amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In the Final Office Action of October 1, 2008 (herein, the Final Office Action), Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. 6,085,171 to Leonard et al. (herein, Leonard); Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leonard; and Claims 1-8 and 14-21 were indicated as allowed.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claims 9-11 are canceled by the present amendment, thereby rendering the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that present application including Claims 1-8 and 14-21 is in condition for formal allowance.

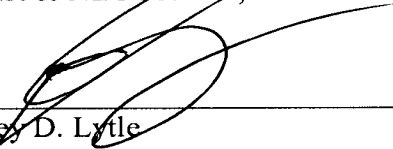
Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of October 1, 2008

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McLELLAND,  
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